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Appl. No. 10/700,521*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) An injection nozzle comprising:  
a nozzle body having a first melt channel and a second melt channel, the first melt channel being offset from the second melt channel;  
a first valve gating element for selectively opening a first gate;  
a second valve gating element for selectively opening a second gate;  
a first actuation mechanism coupled to the first valve gating element;  
a second actuation mechanism coupled to the second valve gating element,  
wherein the second actuation mechanism is located between the first actuation mechanism and the nozzle body; and  
means to drive independently said first and second actuation mechanisms to displace said first and second valve gating mechanisms relative to each other.
2. (Original) The injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the first gate links the first melt channel with a first mold cavity and the second gate links the second melt channel with a second mold cavity.
3. (Original) The injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the first gate links the first melt channel with a mold cavity and the second gate links the second melt channel to the same mold cavity.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).

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6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) An injection molding apparatus comprising:

a manifold having a first manifold melt channel for receiving a first melt stream of moldable material and a second manifold channel for receiving a second melt stream of moldable material;

a nozzle having a first melt channel for receiving the first melt stream and a second melt channel for receiving a second melt stream, the first melt channel being axially offset from the second melt channel;

a first valve gating element for selectively opening a first gate to allow the first melt stream to flow into a mold cavity; and

a second valve gating element for selectively opening a second gate to allow the second melt stream to flow into the mold cavity, wherein the second valve gating element is operable independent of the first valve gating element;

a melt channel connector provided between the manifold and the nozzle, the melt channel connector having a first connecting melt channel and a second connecting melt channel,

wherein the first connecting melt channel is in fluid communication with the first manifold melt channel and the first nozzle melt channel, and the second connecting channel is in fluid communication with the second manifold melt channel and the second nozzle melt channel.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the melt channel connector is a bushing for receiving the first valve gating element and the second valve gating element.

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10. (Previously Presented) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a first actuation mechanism coupled to a first valve gating element and a second actuation mechanism coupled to a second valve gating element.

11. (Original) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second actuation mechanism is located between the first actuation mechanism and the nozzle.

12. (Original) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first valve gating element extends through the second actuation mechanism.

13. (Original) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a bushing surrounding the first valve gating element, the bushing being slidable through the second actuation mechanism.

14. (Original) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first actuation mechanism includes a first piston coupled to the first valve gating element and the second actuation mechanism includes a second piston coupled to the second valve gating element.

15. (Original) The injection molding apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first valve gating element is surrounded by a bushing, the bushing configured to be slidable through the second piston.

16. (Original) An injection nozzle comprising:  
a nozzle body having a first nozzle melt channel and a second nozzle melt channel;  
a first valve gating element;

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a second valve gating element;  
a first actuation mechanism coupled to the first valve gating element;  
a second actuation mechanism coupled to the second valve gating element,  
the second actuation mechanism positioned between the first actuation mechanism and the  
nozzle body and configured to allow the first valve gating element to pass therethrough  
unimpeded;

means to drive independently the first and second actuation mechanisms to  
displace the first and second valve gating mechanisms relative to each other.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The injection nozzle of claim 1, wherein the first  
valve gating element extends through the second actuation mechanism.

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